

## Message Text

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11-S  
ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 L-02 H-01 DODE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 AID-05 MC-02 ACDA-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 EB-07

COME-00 TRSE-00 /064 W  
----- 059041

R 261625Z FEB 75  
FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8322  
INFO SECDEF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L TUNIS 1195

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MASS, TS  
SUBJECT: SALE OF AIRCRAFT TO TUNISIA

REF: STATE 040587

1. AS NEARLY AS WE CAN TELL, GOT IS CURRENTLY CONSIDERING PURCHASE OF ONE SQUADRON (12 AIRCRAFT) OF EITHER NORTHROP F5 OR RPT OR MCDONALL-DOUGLAS A4 TYPE AIRCRAFT. FOR F5 THESE WOULD BE TEN F5E AND TWO F5F; A4 BUY WOULD BE TEN A4M AND TWO TA4F.

2. AS DEPT AWARE, GOT INCLUDED TWO SQUADRONS ON THEIR LIST OF EQUIPMENT THEY HOPE TO OBTAIN FROM US (TUNIS 0047). QUESTION OF THESE TWO SQUADRONS WAS RAISED DIRECTLY BY CHUSLOT AT MEETING ON 24 FEB WITH HABIB ALAOUINI, SECRETARY GENERAL OF MOD. ALAOUINI'S REPOSENSE WAS THAT PURCHASE OF THESE TWO SQUADRONS WAS MATTER UNRELATED TO 12 AIRCRAFT NOW UNDER CONSIDERATION, AND THAT THE TWO SQUADRONS ON GOT'S LIST WAS MATTER FOR PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA AND PRESIDENT FORD.

3. FURTHER INDICATION THAT ONLY ONE SQUADRON IS IN QUESTION ALSO CAME OUT OF SAME MEETING WITH ALAOUINI. LAST WEEK AT MEETING BETWEEN NORTHROP REPS AND LTC MACHTA,  
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C/S TAF SURPRISINGLY REQUESTED NORTHROP TO PREPARE

LETTER OF OFFER FOR 24 ACFT; 18 F5E'S; AND 6 F5F'S.  
THIS APPARENTLY HAD NOT BEEN CLEARED WITH MOD OFFICIALS,  
SINCE AT 24 FEB MEETING, ALAOUININ CLIPPED MACHTA'S  
WINGS BY STATING POSITIVELY THAT MOD THINKING IN TERMS OF  
12 AIRCRAFT, AND AT LUNCHEON FOLLOWING MEETING MACHTA APPEARED  
RESIGNED TO ONLY 12.

4. DESIRE WITHIN AIR FORCE IS STRONG FOR BOTH SQUADRONS  
AT THIS TIME BUT MOD INTENT APPEARS TO BE THAT A  
SECOND SQUADRON WILL HAVE TO WAIT AT LEAST FOR THE  
TIME BEING. SINCE LOSS OF USAF LOGISTICAL SUPPORT  
FOR F-86 AIRCRAFT IN 1977 WILL BE CONCURRENT WITH  
EARLIEST POSSIBLE DELIVERY OF NEW FIGHTERS, ANY ATTEMPT  
TO PURCHASE SECOND SQUADRON OF 12 AIRCRAFT IS NOT  
CONSIDERED LIKELY BEFORE THEN.

5. REGARDING TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT ON GOT LIST, USG  
DOES NOT HAVE AN APPROPRIATE MILITARY TRANSPORT TO  
OFFER. INDICATIONS ARE THAT GOT IS CONSIDERING  
PURCHASING AERITALIA G-222 OR DEHAVILLAND C-8. BOTH  
ARE POWERED BY GENERAL ELECTRIC TURBOPROP ENGINES.

6. COMMENT: WHILE WE ARE FAIRLY CERTAIN THAT WHAT  
GOT HAS IN MIND NOW IN REQUESTING LETTERS OF OFFER  
FOR A-4S AND F-5S IS ONE SQUADRON OF 12 AIRCRAFT,  
WE ARE LESS SURE OF WHETHER GOT ULTIMATELY HAS TWO  
OR THREE SQUADRONS IN MIND, I.E., ONE NOW PLUS TWO  
LATER, OR ONE NOW AS PART OF THE TWO THEY REQUESTED  
OF US, PLUS ONE MORE. IN ANY EVENT WHETHER THEY  
HAVE TWO OR THREE IN MIND, IT EVIDENT TO US THAT  
THEY ARE PREPARED CONSIDER FINANCING ONLY ONE NOW.  
ALOUINI'S REFERENCE TO DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN PRESIDENTS  
FORD AND BOURGUIBA WAS IN CONTEXT OF BOURGUIBA'S  
PROPOSED VISIT TO STATES, INDICATING THAT WORD THAT  
BOURGUIBA WILL NOT BE GOING HAS NOT YET SEEPED DOWN  
TO WORKING LEVELS OF GOT. MATTER, HOWEVER, COULD  
OF COURSE STILL BE DISCUSSED IN BOURGUIBA'S NAME  
BY PRIMIN NOUIRA SHOULD HE VISIT STATES INSTEAD.  
SEELYE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FIGHTER AIRCRAFT, MILITARY SALES, AIR FORCE  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 26 FEB 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ElyME  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975TUNIS01195  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750068-0908  
**From:** TUNIS  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t1975029/aaaaahvt.tel  
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**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION PM  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Review Content Flags:**  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SALE OF AIRCRAFT TO TUNISIA  
**TAGS:** MASS, TS  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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